

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 ARA-06 CIAE-00
DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NASA-01
NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01
OES-06 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /124 W
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R 161433Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5956
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0149

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, PARM, BY
SUBJ: BURUNDI PARTICIPATION ON PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR
UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

REF : STATE 26795 (NOTAL)

1. WHILE DISCUSSING ANOTHER MATTER FEB 15 WITH SIGUJEJE,
NEW NUMBER TWO (DIRECTOR GENERAL) AT FOREIGN MINISSTRY,
I OBSERVED THAT BURUNDI DID NOT SEEM TO BE FIELDING
DEPEGATIONS TO SOME OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WHERE
IT WAS ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE. I WONDERED WHETHER THIS
WOULD BE TRUE FOR PREPCON FOR UNGA SPECIAL SESSION ON DIS-
ARMAMENT, OF WHICH BURUNDI WAS MEMBER.

2. SIGUJEJE SAID THAT SPECIAL SESSION WAS VERY IMPORTANT
AND THAT BURUNDI WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY DEVOTE ATTENTION TO
WORK OF PREPCON. IT WOULD PROBABLY SEND SPECIAL DELEGATE
TO NEW YORK FOR THIS RATHER THAN RELY ON BURUNDI MISSION
AT UN, BUT NO DECISIONS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN TAKEN. IN FACT,
BURUNDI HAD NOT DONE ITS HOMEWORK ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES.
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OF COURSE, BURUNDI FAVOREPSSTOPPING ALL NUCLEAR TESTS AND
REDUCING THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR THREAT, BUT IT HAD NOT YET
BEGUN EXAMINING WHAT IT MIGHT ADVOCATE IN THE PREPCON
CONTEXT.

3. I COMMENTED THAT, OF COURSE, ALL STATES WERE INTERESTED
IN THE BIG GLOBAL DISARMAMENT ISSUES, AND I HOPED THAT

BURUNDI WOULD DO ITS HOMEWORK. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD NOT OVER-LOOK THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ARMS CONTROL IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL SITUATIONS, WHERE NEIGHBORING STATES ENGAGED IN LITFE ARMS RACES THAT COULD BE DESTABILIZING. I NOTED THAT RWANDESE OFFICIALS HAD SPOKEN OF THEIR CONCERN OVER BURUNDI'S ARMS ACQUISITIONS AND THE SIZE OF BURUNDI'S ARMY (PERHAPS FIFTY PERCENT ABOVE RWANDA'S). SIMILAR RIVALRIES EXISTED ELSEWHERE IN EAST AFRICA. MAYBE SOMETHING COULD BE DONE AT UNGA SPECIAL SESSION TO PROMOTE SELF-CONTROL IN ARMS PURCHASES SO AS TO INCREASE MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AMONG NEIGHBORS. SIGUJEJ SAID THIS WAS AN IDEA WORTH PURSUING, AND I NOTED THAT LAST MONTH I HAD MENTIONED TO FONMIN MUGANGA THE DIS-QUIETING EFFECT IN KIGALI OF BURUNDI'S RELATIVELY LARGE ARMS BUILDUP, MAINLY FROM THE USSR.

4. GIVEN THE PAUCITY OF TALENT AND EXPERIENCE IN THE BURUNDI FONOFF, I WOULD NOT EXPECT IT TO CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO THE UNGA SSOD. BUT BOTH THERE AND BEFOREHAND IN PREPCON, IT WILL TEND TO GO ALONG WITH OAU CONSENSUS, OR, IF OAU IS DIVIDED, WITH MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS IN OAU. IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SUPPORT MOVES TO INCLUDE ON AGENDA BANS ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA. I DOUBT THAT IT WILL FOLLOW UP ON MY SUGGESTION ABOUT ARMS LIMITATION ARRANGEMENTS IN SITUATIONS OF LOCAL RIVALRY.
MARK

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